

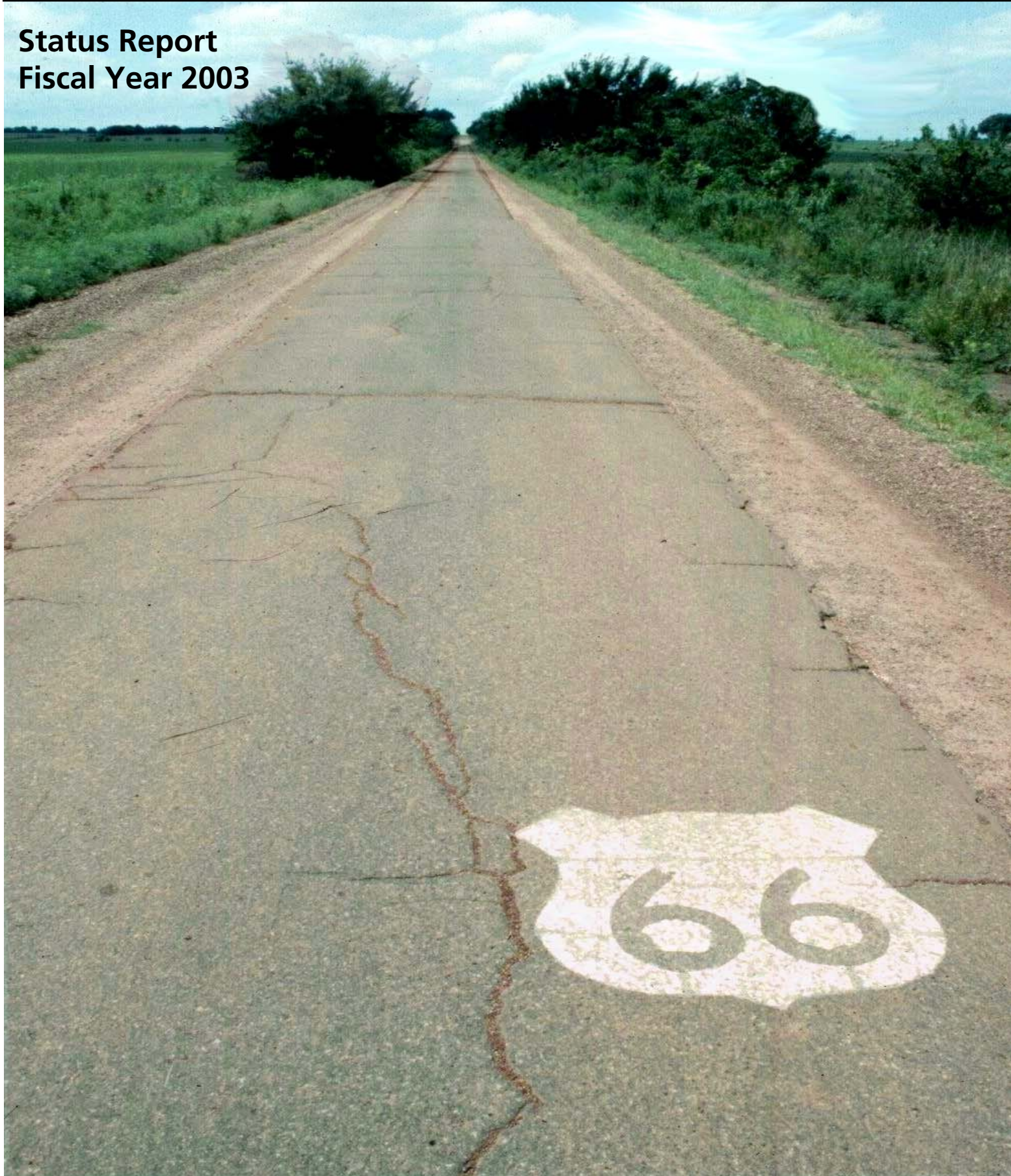
Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Trails System Office
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Status Report Fiscal Year 2003





Route 66 in Chelsea, Oklahoma.

The perpetuation of this American symbol is critically dependent on coordinated local, state, and national preservation efforts.

Introduction

Route 66. It crosses the heart of America, demonstrating the delights and realities of a wide cross-section of American culture along the way. To many, the highway has come to symbolize the spirit and freedom of America, and the pursuit of the American Dream. The historic road inspires memories of many kinds: the Dust Bowl, World War II, simpler times, vacations, and adventure, to name a few. The route, though decommissioned, has earned legendary status with millions of people throughout the world via song, film, books, and personal experience. The perpetuation of this American symbol, however, is critically dependent on coordinated local, state, and national preservation efforts.

To address this need, Congress passed Public Law 106-45 in 1999, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act. The Act was legislated with the intent of creating a program of grants and technical assistance that will set priorities and precedents for the preservation of Route 66 cultural resources. In addition to preserving a national symbol, the initiative will potentially stimulate business and economic growth in 30 congressional districts in the eight states through which the route passes. A majority of these districts include rural communities in need of economic enrichment, which Route 66 historic preservation and heritage tourism can facilitate.

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

To meet the objectives of the Act, the National Park Service established the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program (hereinafter, “the Program”), which is administered through the National Trails System Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since its inception in fiscal year 2001, the intention of the Program has been to identify, prioritize, and assist Route 66 preservation needs through collaboration and cooperation with government, private, and organizational partners. To date, the Program has provided a series of cost-share awards and grants to help preserve and restore the most significant and representative resources from the route’s period of outstanding historic significance (1926-70). The Program is also serving as a clearinghouse of preservation information and technical assistance.

The Program will legislatively terminate at the end of fiscal year 2009, at which time the Act anticipates that the National Park Service will have successfully developed the Program to enable a non-federal entity (or entities) to continue the Program’s purpose.

Program Goals/Activities

Goals and activities of the program include:

■ Building Partnerships

The Program has actively sought the participation of partners in the process of prioritizing preservation needs of the route, and Program goals. Partners include local, state, federal, and tribal governments; Route 66 associations; non-profit organizations; private landowners; and other invested stakeholders. To date, the Program has met individually with numerous partners along the route, and has held working meetings with wide partnership representation. These meetings have resulted in enthusiastic and valuable input related to the identification and prioritization of preservation needs, and in action toward the creation of a Federal Advisory Committee. The role of the advisory committee will be to provide a forum for diverse interests to discuss issues and advise the National Park Service on Program matters and Route 66 preservation priorities.

■ Clearinghouse Function

The Program serves as a point of contact for Route 66 preservation information, including preservation standards and guidelines, technical briefs, the National Register of Historic Places, preservation grants, preservation training opportunities, and other types of references and referrals. Information is disseminated through the Program website at www.cr.nps.gov/rt66, informational pamphlets, a Route 66 Directory of Financial and Technical Assistance, community and stakeholder meetings, and personal communication. All information provided is intended to address the unique needs of Route 66, and to reinforce the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

■ Technical Assistance and Community Outreach

Program staff meet with private land owners and other partners to offer limited technical assistance, such as cursory building inspections, advice on potential treatments, and project concepts. Community and individual meetings are also held to increase awareness of the program; to deepen the understanding of the significance of Route 66; and to encourage the identification and coordination of Route 66 preservation projects.

■ Administration of Cost-Share Awards and Grants

In fiscal years 2001 and 2002, the Program provided 23 cost-share awards and grants to projects in the eight states through which Route 66 passes. The funds have gone toward training, research, inventory of historic properties, and preservation projects that will set precedents for the preservation of the most significant and representative aspects of Route 66. Funded projects include historic building inventory surveys, roadbed management plans, National Register nominations, building and neon sign restoration, oral history training workshops, the development of a national Route 66 middle school lending library, and others. In 2001, \$410,000 was distributed in grant and cost-share awards, with \$202,645 raised in non-federal cost-share match; with reduced Congressional appropriations in 2002, \$151,226 was distributed, with \$231,485 raised in non-federal cost-share match.

Looking Forward

To date, the Program has taken significant strides toward establishing priorities and building strong relationships with partners. The Program has also provided support to preservation projects through grant and cost-share awards, and provided technical assistance. Immediate Program goals include expansion of technical assistance capabilities and community outreach, and more rigorous funding of grant/cost-share projects to preserve endangered Route 66 resources and icons. These undertakings will be completed in a manner that sets a

national precedent for the management and treatment of significant historic roads.

To fulfill the purpose of the Act, \$10 million was Congressionally authorized for appropriation for fiscal years 2000 through 2009. Actual appropriations - which represent the funding used to support all Program requirements, including administrative costs, grant awards, and technical support - were \$500,000 in fiscal year 2001, and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2002. In order to meet and fulfill Program objectives, the budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2003 was \$1.25 million; actual appropriations are still under negotiation at the time of this printing. The budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2004 will be \$1.25 million.

The National Trails System Office –
Intermountain Region administers the
Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program.
Contact the program office at:

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program
National Trails System Office
National Park Service
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Phone
505-988-6742

E-Mail
IM_Rt66@nps.gov

Website
www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Properties like the Blue Swallow Motel in New Mexico have been surveyed to create a comprehensive inventory of Route 66 resources. Inventories are the foundation of effective resource management. They help to identify preservation needs and properties eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Funded Projects - 2001



A condition assessment has been prepared, and restoration work is being implemented for the Rialto Theater in Winslow, Arizona.

Arizona

Project: Rialto Theatre Rehabilitation
Recipient: Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
Amount: \$50,000 NPS, \$50,000 match

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the City of Winslow, Arizona, received cost-share funds to prepare a condition assessment report, and to rehabilitate portions of the historic Rialto Theatre in downtown Winslow, Arizona. Rehabilitation included roof, façade, entryway, structural, and interior repairs. The Rialto Theatre was built in 1920 for performing arts and vaudeville acts, before it was converted to a cinema. It has been closed since 1966. Since rehabilitation, the theater has re-opened for business as the only first-run theater within a 60-mile radius of Winslow.



A Historic Structure Report will be prepared and restoration work will be implemented for the Aztec Hotel in Monrovia, California.

California

Project: Aztec Hotel Rehabilitation
Recipient: California Office of Historic Preservation
Amount: \$50,000 NPS, \$50,000 match

The California Office of Historic Preservation in partnership with the City of Monrovia, California, received cost-share funds to prepare a Historic Structure Report, and to implement rehabilitation work at the historic Aztec Hotel in Monrovia, California. Restoration work will include the installation of original-style wood doors, exterior re-stucco and painting, and electrical and plumbing upgrades. The Aztec was built in 1924-1925 in a Mayan Revival style to encourage travelers along Route 66 to stay in Monrovia. It was constructed as a lavish hotel located in the Los Angeles foothills, and has recently been acquired by a property owner who has already made tremendous progress toward its resurrection as a destination spot along Route 66.



The restoration of the Odell Standard Oil Gas Station has been completed.

Illinois

Project: Odell Standard Oil Gas Station Restoration
Recipient: Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency
Amount: \$7,500 NPS, \$7,500 match

The Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency in partnership with the Village of Odell, Illinois, received cost-share funds to complete the restoration of the Standard Oil Gasoline Station in Odell, Illinois. Original windows and bay doors were restored, the metal roof over the service bays was painted, and an electrical system and HVAC system were installed. The building possesses architectural significance as a good example of the "house with canopy" style gas station, with added bays. The gas station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is located on the 1926 Route 66 alignment in the Village of Odell. The restored station serves as tourist attraction thanks to the assistance of Village of Odell and the Illinois Route 66 Association.

Funded Projects - 2001

(Continued from page 3)



A survey of Kansas Route 66 properties, such as the Rainbow Marsh Bridge in Baxter Springs, has been completed, and National Register nominations have been prepared for select properties.

Kansas

Project: Kansas Route 66 Inventory Survey
Recipient: Kansas State Historical Society
Amount: \$15,000 NPS

The Kansas State Historical Society received grant funds to conduct a comprehensive inventory survey of historic properties associated with Route 66 through Kansas, including buildings, ruins, archeological sites, bridges, and road alignments. The project included the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for select properties, which makes those properties potentially eligible for rehabilitation tax credits and other preservation incentives. A historic context statement for Route 66 properties in Kansas was also developed, which will facilitate the nomination of other eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places in the future.



A survey of Missouri Route 66 properties, including the Cedar Inn Restaurant in Pacific was completed, and National Register nominations were prepared for select properties.

Missouri

Project: Missouri Route 66 Inventory Survey
Recipient: Missouri State Historic Preservation Program
Amount: \$70,000 NPS

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Program received funds to complete an inventory survey of extant historic properties associated with Route 66 in Missouri. An historic context statement for Route 66 properties in Missouri was also developed. The project included the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for select properties including the Big Chief Hotel and Cabins in Wildwood; the 66 Drive-In Theatre Historic District in Carthage; the Rock Fountain Court Historic District in Springfield; the Wagon Wheel Historic District in Cuba; and the Red Cedar Inn in Pacific. National Register status makes these properties potentially eligible for rehabilitation tax credits and other preservation incentives.



An inventory survey of properties associated with Route 66 in New Mexico was completed, and National Register nominations were prepared for select properties such as La Bajada, the 1920s road segment south of Santa Fe.

New Mexico

Project: New Mexico Route 66 Inventory Survey
Recipient: New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division
Amount: \$12,000 NPS

The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division received grant funds to update and complete an inventory survey of existing properties associated with Route 66 in New Mexico. The project also included the preparation of National Register nominations for the 1920s La Bajada road segment south of Santa Fe; Sam's Tire and Lube Shop in Los Lunas; and a multiple property listing for historic neon signs on New Mexico Route 66.

Funded Projects - 2001

(Continued from page 4)



Ten New Mexico Route 66 neon signs have been restored to working condition (photo courtesy New Mexico Route 66 Association).

New Mexico (continued)

Project: New Mexico Neon Sign Restoration
Recipient: New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division
Amount: \$50,000 NPS, \$50,000 match

The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division in cooperation with the New Mexico Route 66 Association received cost-share funds to restore and make operable 10 historic signs in several towns along Route 66 in New Mexico. The restored signs include the TeePee Curios, La Cita Restaurant, and Paradise Motel in Tucumcari; the Sun n' Sand in Santa Rosa; El Comedor de Anayas Restaurant in Moriarty; the Aztec Motel, the El Rey Theatre, and the Westward Ho Motel in Albuquerque; the Grants Café, and the Uranium Café in Grants; and the Lexington Hotel in Gallup.



Sign ordinances and other policies have been studied in towns along Route 66 through New Mexico to determine whether or not maintenance and preservation objectives for historic signs are being met.

Project: New Mexico Model Historic Sign Ordinance Development
Recipient: New Mexico Preservation Heritage Alliance
Amount: \$14,000 NPS, \$7,000 match

The New Mexico Preservation Heritage Alliance completed a study project of sign ordinances and other policies along Route 66 in New Mexico to evaluate whether or not maintenance and preservation objectives for historic signs are being met. A model historic sign ordinance was prepared, and has been shared with other organizations in the eight states through which Route 66 passes.



Color brochures will educate the general public about the historical importance and continued use of the Nob Hill Business District on Route 66 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Project: Nob Hill Business District Preservation Brochure
Recipient: Nob Hill Highland Renaissance Corporation
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$3,700 match

The Nob Hill Highland Renaissance Corporation received grant funds to produce color brochures to describe for the general public the historical importance and continued use of the Nob Hill Business District in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The preservation of Route 66 era businesses and architecture in the Nob Hill Business District are stressed in the brochures.

Funded Projects - 2001

(Continued from page 5)



Documentation of Route 66 roadbeds will enable preservationists to work with the Department of Transportation to preserve the historic fabric and context of the road while meeting modern safety requirements.

Oklahoma

Project: Oklahoma Route 66 Inventory Survey and Roadbed Documentation
Recipient: Oklahoma Historical Society
Amount: \$77,000 NPS

The Oklahoma Historical Society received grant funds to update and expand an inventory survey of extant historic properties associated with Route 66 in Oklahoma. The project included the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for select properties, and the development of a historic context statement. The Oklahoma Historical Society also received funds to document and map extant Route 66 roadbeds, and to develop priorities and methodologies for the management and treatment of those historic roadbed segments in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.



The Rock Café has been rehabilitated, including the neon sign, masonry, windows, and interior floors.

Project: Rock Café Rehabilitation
Recipient: Oklahoma Historical Society
Amount: \$34,445 NPS, \$34,445 match

The Oklahoma Historical Society, through a sub-grant, awarded \$34,445 to the Rock Cafe in Stroud, Oklahoma. The funds provided assistance in the rehabilitation of the cafe, including the neon sign, masonry, windows, and interior floors. Three interior and exterior doorways were restored to their original location, and new fire-suppression, gas supply, electrical, and HVAC systems were installed. The cafe was built in 1939 from rock quarried during the construction of Route 66 in Stroud. The cafe, which is open for business, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.



A survey of properties including the U-Drop Inn Cafe has been completed to create a baseline inventory of Route 66 resources in Texas.

Texas

Project: Texas Route 66 Inventory Survey
Recipient: Friends of the Texas Historical Commission
Amount: \$22,700 NPS

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission received grant funds to conduct a comprehensive inventory survey of historic properties and road segments associated with Route 66 in Texas. The project identified and mapped the location of all Route 66 road alignments; identified and photographed existing Route 66 properties; and produced a statewide historic context statement, including the identification of properties and districts potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Funded Projects - 2002



The Frontier Motel and Restaurant neon signs in Truxton, Arizona, have been restored to working condition

Arizona

Project: Frontier Motel and Restaurant Neon Sign Restoration
Recipient: Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona
Amount: \$9,268 NPS, \$9,268 match

The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, in partnership with the Frontier Motel and Restaurant in Truxton, Arizona, has been awarded cost-share funds to restore the Frontier's neon signs. Weather conditions had destroyed the neon tubing and tarnished the metal portions of the signs. Restoration returned the signs to their original appearance and condition, to once again attract travelers on the road. The Frontier has been a Route 66 destination since 1951.



The Ambler's Texaco Station in Dwight, Illinois, will be restored to its 1940s appearance.

Illinois

Project: Ambler's Texaco Station Restoration
Recipient: Village of Dwight, Illinois
Amount: \$10,400 NPS, \$10,400 match

The Village of Dwight has been awarded cost-share funds to restore the historic Ambler's Texaco Station located in Dwight, Illinois. The gas station, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be restored to its 1940s appearance. Project work will include repair of the windows, doors, and roof, and the exterior and interior will be repainted to match the 1940s color scheme. When the project is completed, the gas station will be used as a Route 66 rest stop and interpretive center.



A 10-mile segment of abandoned Route 66 will be studied for the development of a bike trail between the towns of Litchfield and Mt. Olive, Illinois.

Project: Litchfield-to-Mt. Olive Bike Trail
Recipient: Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Amount: \$15,000 NPS, \$14,955 match

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been awarded grant/cost-share funds to prepare plans for the development of a bicycle trail on a 10-mile segment of Route 66 between Litchfield and Mt. Olive, Illinois. The segment under consideration is currently abandoned, and a portion of it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This project is part of a larger concept to link Route 66 segments across Illinois, ending ultimately at the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis.

Funded Projects - 2002

(Continued from page 7)



A seminar was held to provide teachers with curriculum and strategies for teaching students the history and significance of Route 66. A lending library and website of Route 66 educational materials are also being developed.

Illinois (continued)

Project: Route 66 Teachers Seminar
Recipient: Illinois State Historical Society
Amount: \$3,000 NPS, \$15,968 match

The Illinois State Historical Society was awarded cost-share funds to support a day-long Route 66 teachers' seminar in Springfield, Illinois, and to establish a lending library of Route 66 educational materials for teachers nationwide. The cost-share funds helped offset travel costs for teachers to attend the seminar, and contributed to the purchase of lending library materials comprised of Route 66 teaching aids. Another result of the seminar will be a website that makes the seminar materials accessible to all teachers interested in educating students about the significance and importance of Route 66.



Architectural design documents will be prepared for the rehabilitation of the Eagle Hotel in Wilmington, Illinois.

Project: Eagle Hotel Rehabilitation
Recipient: Historic Eagle Corporation
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The historic Eagle Hotel in Wilmington, Illinois, has been awarded cost-share funds to develop architectural design documents for the rehabilitation of the hotel. The Eagle Hotel offered lodging and food during the route's period of significance, and also served as a sporting goods store. When rehabilitated, the hotel will once again provide lodging and food to Route 66 travelers.



Construction documents will be prepared, and restoration activities undertaken for a 1930s Mobil Gas Station in Cuba, Missouri.

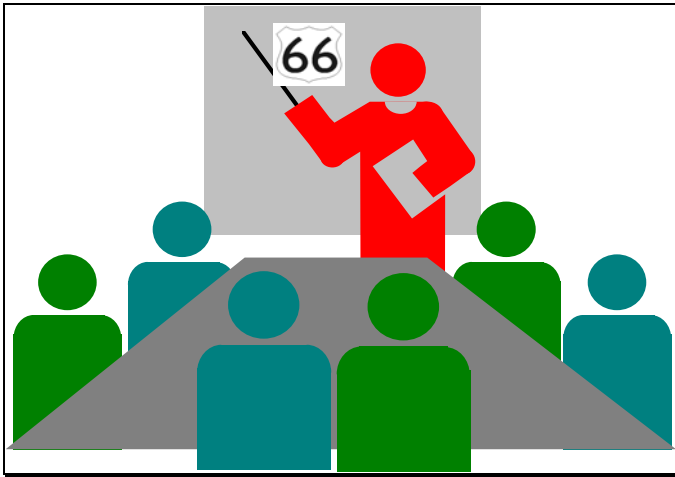
Missouri

Project: Cuba Mobil Station Restoration
Recipient: Private property owner
Amount: \$20,000 NPS, \$20,000 match

The owner of a 1930s Mobil Gas Station in Cuba, Missouri, has been awarded cost-share funds for restoration of the brick, cottage-style station. Restoration will include architectural services to develop project construction documents and preservation specifications. Restoration activities will also include repair or replacement of the roof shingles, doors, doorframes, and brick masonry to match the original appearance of the building. The building served as a gas station until 1964, and has since served as an independent oil company office, and a bakery on Route 66 in Cuba.

Funded Projects - 2002

(Continued from page 8)



An oral history training project will train workshop attendees in effective interview strategies, research for, and conservation of Route 66 oral histories.

New Mexico

Project: Route 66 Oral History Project
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$18,709 NPS, \$6,380 match

The New Mexico Route 66 Association in partnership with the University of New Mexico Department of English will develop and administer an oral history training project in accordance with the Oral History Associations Evaluation Standards. The project will provide workshops designed to train up to 140 attendees in conducting interviews, research for, and conservation of Route 66 oral histories. The workshops will be open to all interested participants, and will be held at seven locations along the length of the route between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Project: Architectural Neon Restoration
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$13,400 NPS, \$22,750 match

The New Mexico Route 66 Association will restore architectural neon at a minimum of five locations on Route 66 in New Mexico. An example of architectural neon is the neon tubing used to line eaves along motel rooflines, as well as ornamental neon. Architectural neon served many purposes, such as increasing the visibility of businesses from the road (to attract customers), providing a measure of safety for guests at night, and adding character to buildings via ornamental images such as cacti and sombreros. A percentage of the funds will also be used for the production of an hour-long documentary film featuring the neon restoration projects. The documentary will be aired on *Colores!*, an award-winning public television program.



The Grandview Motel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, illuminates its architectural neon. Architectural neon will be restored at a minimum of five locations along Route 66 through New Mexico (photo courtesy New Mexico Route 66 Association).

Oklahoma

Project: Chandler's Phillips 66 Filling Station Restoration
Recipient: Private property owner
Amount: \$1,449 NPS, \$1,450 match

The owner of the 1930s Phillips 66 Gas Station in Chandler, Oklahoma, was awarded cost-share funds to conduct a restoration feasibility and cost estimate study. As part of this work, a Historic Structures Report was prepared, describing the history, current condition, and potential treatment options for the property. The station originally opened for business in 1930, and operated as a gas station until 1992. When restoration is completed, the building will serve as a rest stop for Route 66 travelers.



A restoration feasibility and cost estimate study has been completed for the 1930s Phillips 66 Gas Station in Chandler, Oklahoma.

Funded Projects - 2002

(Continued from page 9)



The Magnolia Gas Station in Vega, Texas, will be restored to its 1920s appearance.

Texas

Project: Magnolia Station Restoration
Recipient: City of Vega, Texas
Amount: \$50,000 NPS, \$120,314 match

The City of Vega, Texas, has been awarded cost-share funds to restore the 1920s Magnolia Gas Station in Vega. The restoration project will include interior and exterior repair to the existing structure, including restoration of the doors, windows, roof shingles, plaster, and flooring, and also reconstruction of the gasoline pump canopy. The building, which represents unique gas station architecture, operated as a gas station until 1953, and as a barbershop until 1965. When restored, it will serve as an interpretive stop along the older alignment of Route 66 in Vega.